SAIL have in the past appointed agents in the foreign countries for exporting steel. Such agents, however, are appointed on a case to case basis. There are no standing liaison agents for SAIL in foreign countries.

In case of indigenous purchases or purchase of imported items, suppliers appoint agents to represent their cases with SAIL. Such agents are not appointed by SAIL.

These appointments are in line with normal commercial practice.

(c) No, Sir.

High Power Committee to review Crop Insurance Scheme

694. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Crop Insurance Scheme has not been working economically;

(b) whether Government have set up a High-Power Committee to undertake an indepth review of the functioning of the Scheme;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what are the terms of reference of this Committee?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Group under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation) has been constituted to undertake an indepth and critical review of the functioning of the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme. The other members of the Group are from Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission, General Insurance Corporation of India, Bombay, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi, National Sample Survey Organization and the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

The terms of reference of the Group are:

(i) To undertake an indepth and critical review of the functioning of the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme with a view to suggesting policy changes etc. for improving its functioning in future;

(ii) Examine the proposed scheme for apple and sugarcane and reformulate the same in the light of the comments of the Committee of Secretaries on the subject.

Taking over of Iron and Steel works at Bhadravati

695. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka have recently forwarded a proposal regarding the taking over of the Iron and Steel works at Bhadravati;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have since communicated to the Government of Karnataka about the take-over of the said works; and

(c) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Specific Plan for Group Housing Societies

696. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any specific plan to permit and